

Message Text

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21

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /025 W

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R 251010Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2497

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 197

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, TC

SUBJ: ABU DHABI DESALTING PLANT

REF: (A) STATE 14573 (B) ABU DHABI 97 (C) ABU DHABI 325

1. EMBASSY REPORTED TEN MONTHS AGO VIA REF C THAT ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT DISSATISFIED WITH OPERATION OF WIER-WESTGARTH (U.K.) TWO MILLION GALLON PER DAY DESALINATION PLANT. RECENT CONVERSATIONS CONFIRM THAT PLANT STILL HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH MAINTENANCE AND PARTS. HOWEVER, OPERATION OF DESALTING PLANT IS NOT RPT NOT RESPONSIBILITY OF CONSULTING FIRM LEHMEYER INTERNATIONAL.

2. REPORTS OF LEHMEYER'S IMMINENT DEMISE IN ABU DHABI ARE PROBABLY EXAGGERATED. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NUMEROUS RUMORS OF DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN LEHMEYER AND SHAIKH SOROUR, CHAIRMAN, ABU DHABI DEPT. OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY, EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION THAT CONSULTANTS TO BE REPLACED. ON THE CONTRARY, LEHMEYER HAS FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH DWE, WHICH STILL HAS THREE YEARS TO RUN, AND WHICH WOULD BE VERY COSTLY FOR DWE TO CANCEL.

3. DWE HAS ALSO APPROVED CONSULTANT'S TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR LARGE OMM AN-NAR POWER AND WATER PROJECT (REPORTED REF B) WHICH INCLUDE SUPPLY OF FOUR MSG DESALINATION PLANT. IF THIS PLANT SAME AS E.8 MGD UNIT MENTIONED REF A, THEN CONSULTANT'S DESIGN HAS BEEN APPROVED.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FROM
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COMMERCE CONCERNING U.S. FIRMS' INTEREST IN ABU DHABI POWER AND

WATER PROJECTS.
STERNER

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